

Attachment 1: Preparations for the Transition of Toronto's Blue Bin Program to Producers

Solid Waste Management Services staff, along with Divisional partners, undertook extensive planning activities to prepare the City and its residents for the implementation of the post-transition phase. The following list of activities provides a high-level overview of the extent of this work.

Continued use of residential curbside blue bins, including dual-use garbage bins

- Sale of the City's residential curbside blue bin assets to Circular Materials
 - Valuation and inventory of curbside residential Blue Bin assets
 - Executed sale agreement
- Agreement to provide Circular Materials with access to collect Blue Box Materials from City-owned dual-use garbage bins (the same bin is used for garbage collection one week, then recycling collection the following week)

Operational Planning

- Bi-weekly Operations Planning Meetings with Circular Materials and their program operator, Reverse Logistics Group (RLG) to share best practices, highlight unique operational challenges such as collections in laneways/back-alleys, and accommodations
- Prepared plan for transition contract completion, including depleting the year-end Blue Box Material inventory at the City's Transfer Stations
- Successfully advocated for the continued collection of overflow recycling and recycling in bags (for bag only customers)
- In field meetings with City staff, Circular Materials and RLG to gain operational understanding in Island collection routing procedures and collection of recycling from residential units above commercial establishments on nights collection
- Monthly provision of updated list of changes to collection addresses to reflect customers that opted-in or opted-out of City waste collection services until the end of December 31, 2025
- Provision of updated list of addresses and data to Circular Materials, including households on private roads, common collection points, special accommodations, dual bins, bag only customers
- Optimization/balancing of collection routes to improve operational efficiency

- Weekly Communications Planning meetings with Circular Materials
- Documenting updated Standard Operating Procedures and Business Processes on account of transition of residential recycling program to producers
- Ongoing and extensive advocacy (sometimes jointly with other Ontario municipal partners) for regulatory and program clarity and improvements, on behalf of residents, to the Province and Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority
- Updating public-facing information about recyclable materials from eligible sources
- Decommissioning of service requests from 311 across self-serve and agent-assisted channels

Change Management

- Regular Solid Waste Management Services staff updates on the progress towards transition since 2019, when the province announced upcoming policy changes under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act*, that shifts the responsibility of managing blue box materials away from municipalities to producers
- Updates with Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79
- Preparation of Key Messages/training for managers, general supervisors and supervisors of front-line staff to effectively communicate the change to staff
- Routine status update and direction-seeking staff reports to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and City Council

Communications Strategy

- A clear and comprehensive communications plan was initiated in May of 2025, the details of which can be found in [a report](#) tabled at the September 26, 2025 Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting. In addition, there were multiple Infrastructure and Environment Committee and City Council update and direction reports.
- Additionally, starting in 2023, that City has had information on its website about the transition and in 2024, included information about the transition in the Waste Guide that is mailed to every household.
- Negotiated a joint collection schedule agreement with Circular Materials to include recycling collection day details in the City's print and online collection schedules

- Exploring the feasibility of including recycling collection day details to the City's mobile application and address look-up tool
- Councillor staff information session held on December 5, 2025
- One-on-one Councillor briefing sessions held throughout December and January
- Councillor Toolkit sent on December 8, 2025, which included: matte stories for web, newsletter, and social media content; key messages; frequently asked questions; digital assets; Circular Materials contact information, including Councillor support contact details, etc.
- Coordinated messaging across all 311 channels (phone, self-serve, mobile app, email) to direct residents to submit eligible source recycling-related service requests directly to Circular Materials starting from January 1, 2026